

I CLAIM:

1. A method for identifying copyrighted images on a network for ensuring legal uses of
5 the copyrighted images, the method comprising:
 - (a) searching a network for a steganographically embedded image based on
predetermined information;
 - (b) comparing data extracted from a located image to the predetermined information; and
 - (c) if the extracted data matches the predetermined information, verifying with a database
10 whether the located image has been licensed for on-line uses.

2. A method for identifying copyrighted content on a network for ensuring legal uses of
the copyrighted content, the method comprising:
 - (a) searching a network for steganographically embedded content based on predetermined
15 information;
 - (b) comparing data extracted from located content to the predetermined information; and
 - (c) if the extracted data matches the predetermined information, verifying with a database
whether the located content has been licensed for on-line uses.

- 20 3. A method of monitoring distribution of audio or image content on a computer
network, comprising:
 - from at least one computer, automatically obtaining audio or image content from plural
different network sites;

automatically identifying plural of the obtained content having certain digital watermark data embedded therein, and decoding the digital watermark data therefrom;

by reference to said decoded digital watermark data, determining an identifier associated with each of said plural obtained content; and

5 maintaining information relating to results of the foregoing monitoring.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the information comprises a network site at which content including a digital watermark identifier is found.

10 5. The method of claim 3, further comprising alerting proprietors of audio or image content to otherwise unknown distribution of their audio or image properties on the network.